

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-010 -
Building**

Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning program.

PRS History: PRS 02-010 consists of two areas of residual contamination associated with a former chemical waste shack (Building 2-3). The chemical shack was built in 1944 or 1945 and contained a hot cell, which was used to reprocess uranyl nitrate solution from the Water Boiler Reactor. Before the cell was removed in 1971, cesium 137 was detected on the floor of the cell, on lead bricks within a hood, and in the drain below the sink. A corrective action was performed in 1971 in which the shack, sewer line, and surrounding vegetation and soils were removed. A radiation survey performed after the corrective action detected no alpha or beta/gamma activity. The site is now occupied by the boiler house (Structure 2-63). Field screening was conducted in 1995. Results showed no detectable concentrations of organic chemicals and no alpha activity above instrument background. Beta/gamma activity was elevated slightly above instrument background.

PRS 02-010 is not listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility



permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 02-010 burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. Surface soils at the site may be contaminated and subject to erosion. There is no debris on the site that could enter the flood watercourse. There are no structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 02-010 was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. ER Project personnel completed one angle hole and collected five samples. The data has not yet been validated or reviewed. Accelerated corrective actions are in process.

Related Documents:

"TA-2 Water Boiler Reactor Decommissioning (Phase I)," LANL Report LA-10890-MS, October 1986.
"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.
"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.